

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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August 19, 2011

Mr. Stephen Hoffman
US Environmental Protection Agency (5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Coal Ash Site Assessment at Basin Electric Power Coop's - Leland Olds Station

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

This letter is in response to the notification received on July 26, 2011, for the final report of the Specific Site Assessment for Coal Combustion Waste Impoundments at Basin Electric (BEPC) Leland Olds Station. This report presents the results of a specific site assessment of coal combustion waste (CCW) impoundments at the Leland Olds Station. The assessment was performed on September 21, 2010, by GEI Consultants, Inc.

The final report includes a specific condition rating for each CCR management unit, and recommendations and actions that should be undertaken to ensure the stability of the CCR impoundment. Currently, the only CCR impoundment is Pond 2. Former Pond 1 is no longer a pond and is classified as a landfill; and Pond 3 is a decant pond. BEPC intends to address each of the corrective measures as follows:

12.1 Corrective Measures and Analyses for the Structures

1. Erosion protection has been installed along the slopes of the Coal Yard Runoff Drainage Ditch in the form of hydro seeding. This work was completed in the spring of 2011.
- 2-5. A geotechnical exploration program is currently being performed by AECOM of Green Bay, WI. This exploration program includes soils classification, index property and strength tests, slope stability analyses, liquefaction potential analysis, and hydrologic analysis.

12.2 Corrective Measures Required for Instrumentation and Monitoring Procedures.

Benchmarks will be set and tied to a vertical datum by BEPC staff. Inverts of the outlet/inlet structures have been surveyed as part of the geotechnical exploration program. Staff gages set to the vertical datum and flow measurement devices will also be installed by BEPC staff. These changes will allow measurement and recording of water levels and discharges into and out of Ponds 2 and 3. A log book of water levels will be kept.

12.3 Corrective Measures Required for Maintenance and Surveillance Procedures

BEPC has developed a brief daily check inspection of the facilities. BEPC will also develop and document informal annual inspections of the facilities by staff trained in dam safety evaluations; and have the facilities inspected every 5 years by a 3rd party professional engineer.

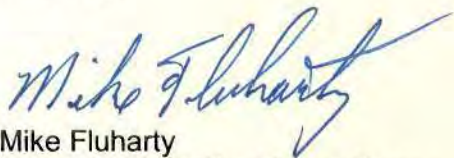


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Each of these corrective measures will be implemented by September 1, 2012. In addition, within Section 12.6 of the final report dated June 2011, the report has been sealed by a Colorado Professional Engineer. The report, recommendations, and associated inspections are on a facility located in North Dakota and should be sealed by a North Dakota Professional Engineer in accordance with North Dakota state law.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know. I can be reached via email at mfluharty@bepc.com or by phone at 701-557-5688.

Sincerely,



Mike Fluharty
Vice President Plant Operations

mb/mf/gmj

cc: Mark Thompson
Mike Paul
Lyle Witham